

# **WOMEN'S ATTITUDES TO REDUCING CERVICAL SCREENING FREQUENCY (#1345)**

## **Topic**

AS04 SUB-THEME 04: Improving the quality and safety of healthcare delivery

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## **Abstract Body**

**WOMEN'S ATTITUDES TO EXTENDING CERVICAL SCREENING INTERVALS** Evidence suggests that cervical screening intervals can be extended and lifetime cervical screening for human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccinated women could be reduced. This mixed methods study examined United Kingdom women's attitudes to extending screening intervals and assessed associations between knowledge, risk perception, HPV vaccination status, and acceptability of changes to cervical screening. **Methods:** A convenience sample of 647 women completed an on-line survey, and 44 women subsequently participated in semi-structured interviews. Data were analysed statistically using one-way independent analyses of variance and independent t-tests for continuous variables. Associations were assessed with chi-square analysis for dichotomous variables. Qualitative data were analysed using content analysis. **Results:** 46.1% of women indicated they would wait 5 years for their next cervical screening, while 60.2% of HPV-vaccinated women would be unwilling to have as few as three cervical screens in a lifetime. Qualitative findings relating to benefits of extending screening intervals included the convenience of less tests, and less physical discomfort and psychological distress associated with screening. Concerns identified included the likelihood of developing illness, increased psychological distress relating to what may be happening in the body, and worries about increased risk of cervical cancer. **Conclusion:** Women need clear and specific information about HPV timelines, their relationship with cancer risk, and the rationale for extending screening intervals. This oral presentation will present the findings from this study and the implication for nurses who usually undertake the cervical screening process and counsel women who attend cervical screening.